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Agenda item 22

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Cameroon, Czech Republic*, Denmark*, Finland, Gambia*, Greece*, Iceland*, Latvia*, Luxembourg*, Netherlands, Norway*, Poland, Portugal*, Senegal*, Slovakia*, Slovenia* and Sweden*: draft resolution

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 47/112 of 16 December 1992 and 48/157 of 20 December 1993, its own resolutions 1993/78 and 1993/83 of 10 March 1993, as well as resolution 1993/5 of 20 August 1993 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Reaffirming that the rights of children require special protection and call for continuous improvement of their situation all over the world, as well as for their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of inadequate social conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, economic and sexual exploitation, illiteracy, hunger and disability, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling that the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, as well as article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, accord children special treatment,

Aware of the need to enhance international cooperation to prevent the involvement of children in armed conflicts,

Urging States to comply strictly with their obligations under article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Mindful of the important role of the United Nations Children's Fund and of the United Nations in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

Convinced that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as a decisive standard-setting accomplishment of the United Nations in the field of human rights, makes a fundamental contribution to protecting the rights of children and ensuring their well-being,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (E/CN.4/1994/83),

Encouraged by the fact that an unprecedented number of States have to date become signatories and parties to the Convention, thereby demonstrating the widespread commitment that exists to strive for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Mindful of the recommendation contained in part II, paragraph 46 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, that measures be taken to achieve universal ratification of the Convention by 1995, as well as its effective implementation,

Seriously concerned about the reservations to the Convention which are contrary to international law, and recalling that in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the World Conference on Human Rights urged States to withdraw reservations to the Convention contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international treaty law,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the number of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention since it was opened for signature, ratification and accession on 26 January 1990, and calls upon all States that have not done so to sign, ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the dissemination of information on the Convention and its implementation with a view to promoting its universal ratification by 1995, as well as to promote the full realization of its principles and provisions;

4. Expresses its alarm at persistent reports that massive violations of the rights of the child continue worldwide;

5. Urges States parties to take immediate steps to ensure strict compliance with their obligations under the Convention, including the timely submission of their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in the light of the guidelines elaborated for that purpose (CRC/C/5);

6. Recognizes the important functions of the Committee in overseeing the effective implementation of the Convention and promoting a deeper understanding of its principles and provisions;

7. Welcomes the constructive and useful results achieved by the Committee during its first five sessions;

8. Takes note of the continued consideration by the Committee of the initial reports submitted by the States parties;

9. Urges States parties to the Convention that have made reservations to review the compatibility of their reservations with article 51 of the Convention and other relevant rules of international law, with a view to considering their withdrawal;

10. Welcomes the consideration by the Committee of the reservations and declarations entered by States parties to the Convention when examining the reports of the States parties;

11. Recalls the recommendation contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that the Committee study the question of raising the minimum age of recruitment into the armed forces;

12. Notes with appreciation the work done by the Committee on this issue, and in particular the preliminary draft optional protocol to the Convention on involvement of children in armed conflicts (E/CN.4/1994/91);

13. Decides to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate, as a matter of priority, a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, using as one basis for its discussions the above-mentioned preliminary draft optional protocol submitted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

14. Invites all Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to participate in the activities of the working group;

15. Requests the working group to meet for a period of two weeks prior to the fifty-first session of the Commission;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, intergovernmental organizations, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the expert on the situation of children in armed conflicts, to be appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/157 of 20 December 1993, as well as non-governmental organizations, to send comments on the draft optional protocol, for consideration by the working group, and to circulate these contributions to Governments in advance of the meeting of the working group;

17. Expresses deep concern at the continued exploitation and abuse of children, requiring effective measures against, in particular, the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

18. Notes the concern voiced by the Committee about the economic exploitation of children, and takes note with interest of the set of recommendations adopted by the Committee on the issue at its fifth session;

19. Expresses concern at the increasingly heavy workload of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the resulting difficulties faced by it in the fulfilment of its functions;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

21. Welcomes General Assembly resolution 48/157 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint an expert to undertake a comprehensive study on the protection of children in armed conflicts, including the participation of children in armed conflict, as well as the relevance and adequacy of existing standards, and to make specific recommendations on ways and means to prevent children from being affected by armed conflicts and to improve the protection of children in armed conflicts, and on measures to ensure effective protection of these children;

22. Requests, in the light of General Assembly resolution 48/157 States Members of the United Nations and United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to contribute to the study;

23. Invites bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on the Convention and promoting its understanding;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Commission at its fifty-first session;

25. Decides to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its fifty-first session under the agenda item "Rights of the Child".